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➤EDITORIAL❖NOTES.◀

The Institute of Hebrew.—The organization known heretofore as “The American Institute of Hebrew,” will hereafter be called “The Institute of Hebrew.” This “Institute,” as will appear from the statement made in the Supplement to this number, includes, as members, thirty-seven professors of Hebrew and of related departments. The Schools of the “Institute” will be The Correspondence School of Hebrew, and the Summer Schools held at Philadelphia, Chicago, at some point in New England, and at Chautauqua.

It is but reasonable to inquire, What will this organization accomplish?

It will eventually raise the standard of scholarship in the Old Testament department of the theological seminaries. If only a small proportion of the men about to enter the seminary have acquired beforehand a knowledge of Hebrew, a great thing will have been accomplished,—provided, of course, this preparation is thorough. As the course of study is arranged, it will soon be seen that only those who come thus prepared are able to do what they themselves desire to do in this department.

It will not be a long time until, through the influence of this organization, instruction in Hebrew will be furnished by our better class of colleges. There can only be offered two objections to this: the difficulty of securing and defraying the expenses of a suitable instructor, and the fact that already the college course includes too much. But such objections are by no means insuperable. If there is demand for this instruction, the colleges will be compelled to furnish it. It will be the work of “The Institute of Hebrew,” and of those connected with it, to demonstrate that the demand exists, and indeed to assist in creating it. Through the influence of this organization, there will be aroused a greater interest among clergymen in the study of Hebrew and the Old Testament. This interest has already been excited in some measure; but what has been done in this direction will appear insignificant in the light of what shall be done within five years.

It can fairly be said, that there are but few organizations in existence which have before them a work, so definite, so important, and so assured of success.

The present number of Hebraica.—A single number of a journal devoted to the interests of Semitic study, with articles, notes and reviews by C. H. TOY, FRANZ DELITZSCH, B. PICK, PAUL HAUPT, FRANCIS BROWN, J. P. PETERS, B. FELSENTHAL, F. DENIO, H. P. SMITH, and G. H. SCHODDE, may certainly be regarded as a most valuable number. We believe that in America there is room for such a journal. Whether those who ought to stand by the undertaking will do so, remains, in part, to be seen. The April number will be the fourth and last number of the first volume. If encouragement, from the right sources, of the proper kind, and in a reasonable measure, is received, the Managing Editor will undertake the issue of Volume II. If he does not receive this encouragement, he will regard the issue of Volume I. as an experiment, and will not repeat it.

Professor Haupt's Series of Articles.—This number contains the first of a series of articles by Professor Haupt on Assyrian grammar. In the April number he will treat of the *e*-vowel in Assyrian. In later numbers he will take up in order (1) *the Changes in the Consonants*, (2) *the Noun*, (3) *the Verb*. When these articles are completed, he will likewise furnish an epitome of Ethiopic grammar. All this is written with special reference to the Hebrew, and is designed chiefly for those who have a knowledge of Hebrew only. Its purpose will be to interest students of Hebrew in the Assyrian and Ethiopic. There is no scholar in this country, or indeed in Europe, who is better able to carry out this plan. It is one in which, we are assured, all readers of *HEBRAICA* will be greatly interested.

Hebrew Texts with Notes.—There is no lack of grammars for the study of Hebrew. With each passing year one or more new treatises appear in this line. It is quite rare to find a teacher of Hebrew who has not written, or planned to write, a grammar. Each generation furnishes its score or more. But why has not something been done in the way of editing the text of the various books of the Hebrew Bible with grammatical notes, and references to a standard grammar? After a few weeks of elementary drill, the student is plunged into Deuteronomy, or Isaiah, or the Psalms, with no helps, but those of the most injurious character, viz., the King James translation and a commentary. He is, in this way, educated to rely upon the former, and is seldom able to make an independent translation; while so much of his time is taken up in reading what for his purpose is worse than trash, that he fails wholly to obtain any considerable familiarity with the Hebrew text. The time which should have been used in the close and critical study of the text of a Psalm, for example, is given to the perusal of the compilation on that Psalm found in Spurgeon's "Treasury of David."

Ought we not to have editions of the more important books of the Bible with such notes as are furnished in connection with an edition of Homer, or Horace, and perhaps with a vocabulary? How much better work, how much more work, a class would do in the study of Isaiah, if there existed such a text.

At a recent gathering of Hebrew professors, this question came up, and much interest was manifested in it. It was learned that some such work had been thought of, and indeed planned by several. May we not hope that some of our energy may be expended in this direction, and that for a time, at least, we may be spared the appearance of another Hebrew grammar?